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CZECHOSLOVAK CIVIL DEFENSE TRAINING AND THE ROLE OF SVAZARM

[Comment: The following series of articles on civil defense in Czechoslovakia and the role that SVAZARM (Svaz pro spolupraci s armadou, Federation for Cooperation With the Army), the Czechoslovak paramilitary organization, plays in civil defense training, was published in issues of Za Vlast and Pracovník Svazarmu as indicated. Both periodicals are published monthly in Prague by SVAZARM. Authors are given where the article carried a by-line.]

## CIVIL DEFENSE ACTIVITY MUST BE IMPROVED

Za Vlast  
Prague, No 2, Feb 56

The relaxation of international tension and the reduction in the size of the Czechoslovak Army has led to the idea in some areas that it is no longer necessary to continue to improve the defensive capabilities of the nation. In some SVAZARM units there has appeared a tendency to assume that some civil defense tasks no longer need to be carried out. Such ideas, regardless of the reasons for them, are false, foreign to the worker class, and must be eliminated as dangerous pacifism.

The improving international situation must not be construed to mean that the danger of war is past or that the forces striving to create a new war have been defeated. The internal features of the international situation must be understood, as must be the features of monopolistic capitalism. The warmongers cannot be tamed by any single act, no matter how great.

SVAZARM members must understand that the defensive capabilities of Czechoslovakia and the other People's Democracies was one of the factors which forced the Western nations to discuss world problems. This makes the question of defensive capability even more important, for the situation in Europe is such that world peace is not yet assured. This situation dictates that caution and vigilance must not be relaxed for an instant, and the economic potential of the nation must be continually strengthened. Likewise, the preparation of the masses for defense tasks must not be relaxed.

In 1955, SVAZARM achieved outstanding success in this field. However, there are still kraj and okres committees of SVAZARM which are not performing these tasks effectively. These include Karlovy Vary, Hradec Kralove, Brno, Usti nad Labem, Nitra, and Banska Bystrica krajs. These organizations are lagging in execution of the annual civil defense tasks; their chairmen are responsible to the party and government where the populations of these areas are not trained in civil defense and where SKSP (Skupiny svepomoci, self-help groups) have not been organized and trained.

Even in studying the nationwide activity of SVAZARM organizations there appear some basic deficiencies. One is the lack of comprehension of the party's and government's instructions dealing with the development of civil defense activity on the existing political, economic, and public structure. Civil defense must not be viewed as a special organization set up outside of SVAZARM and outside of daily life. Every worker, supervisor, and plant manager must carry out civil defense tasks, as must every apartment house, industrial structure, railway station, agricultural cooperative, MTS, and every other economic institution.

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To build such a civil defense system, every National Front member organization must participate. SVAZARM organizations have particularly missed the cooperation of the national committees (Narodni vybory) and their subordinate units, which have shown no initiative in bringing all units of the National Front into the propaganda and recruitment activity. Not even members of the National Assembly, women's committees, and street committees have carried out their tasks as expected. It can be said that SVAZARM organizations remain alone in the execution of these important tasks.

Inadequacies within SVAZARM organizations include lack of cooperation and of high-quality training. This is true of both mass preparation and the training of the SKSP. The combat readiness of these organizations has been inadequate. Currently, records and documentation of training are also inadequate.

It is necessary to note that civil defense tasks are of national significance and that their execution must become the concern of every SVAZARM member. Results achieved in most okreses prove that the success of the program depends on the quality of the people. On close examination, it becomes apparent that the following provisions must be made in order to improve SVAZARM civil defense activity:

1. Application of healthy authority in demands for cooperation from national committees and the National Front, so as to make the question of civil defense a matter of concern to every Czechoslovak citizen, and the creation of street committees as the basic recruitment organization.
2. Greater attention to civil defense cadres, activation of [new or reactivation of] civil defense cadres, and the building of an instructor corps, so that civil defense tasks might be carried out from the standpoint of both organization and training.
3. Organizational strengthening of already-trained SKSP and attention to improvement of the quality of their training. It must be understood that SKSP are the largest public units in civil defense and have great tasks, and that their development must be strengthened in all sectors. In time of danger to the nation the SKSP carry out important work in their sectors in which other organizations may not be able to assist.
4. Provision of an orderly system of records and documentation which is necessary to the activity of controlling agencies as well as the basis for statistical reports.

The civil defense tasks assigned to SVAZARM by the party and government are great and honorable. The civil defense preparation of the population requires a continual improvement of the moral condition of the masses and persuasion regarding the population's duties, including enrollment in civil defense training. This must be preceded by effective mass political activity by SVAZARM, and every official and member must base his activity on political preparation.

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## INTRODUCTION OF NEW CIVIL DEFENSE TRAINING PROGRAMS

Pracovník Svazarmu  
Prague, 10 Jan 56

Lt Col (Podplukovník)  
Rastislav Balastik  
Worker of the Central  
Committee of SVAZARM

If the civil defense system is to be successful, its build-up must not cease. The value of political preparation and training of the SKSP (self-help groups) and other public civil defense units must constantly be increased, so that their members will be prepared to fulfill their roles even under complex conditions. Civil defense organization and training must therefore correspond to current developments in military science.

Because training has thus far been too theoretical, with insufficient practical training and demonstrations, and because theoretical instruction did not tie in with practical training, the Central Committee of SVAZARM has issued new programs for civil defense training. In the new programs theory and practice complement each other and greater emphasis is placed on practical training. However, it is not possible to suppress theory. A great deal will depend on the technical instructor, who will utilize his capabilities and experience in presenting lecture material in as interesting a manner as possible and supplemented with visual aids.

The programs are important for training SKSP groups in residential areas and other establishments. Training by other means, including the use of technical handbooks (thus far used by many SVAZARM okres committees), is not permitted. One such example is the female civil defense commander at an establishment in Mesice who trained her group by having individual unit commanders read articles torn from the civil defense self-help handbook.

To assure the fulfillment and quality of training, the principles contained in the programs must be maintained by SVAZARM organizations. The new programs are becoming a significant aid for the basic organizations and okres committees of SVAZARM, because they direct all organizations to successfully fulfill civil defense assignments by the time the First [SVAZARM] Congress is held.

Training in the SKSP groups is organized according to the technical qualifications of individual units. That is why SKSP commanders and their political officers receive specially designed programs. Included in the program are parts on organization, subjects to be taught and their texts, training plans, and norms for checking. The organizational part states, for example, that technical circles should be held to 25 participants, or three units. The membership of 25 is the maximum and should not be increased; and instead, groups should be created with a smaller number of trainees for easier organization and better mastery of the subject matter.

The desired quality of training will be attained by maintaining individual training subject schedules. Instruction should be keyed to the educational level of the students. For example, in the chemical school the subjects taught to the chemical SKSP unit can be on the same level as other school standards and some of the topics might even be omitted. Certain standards must, however, be mastered by all of the participants in their entirety, including selected theoretical questions.

An important part of the programs are the topical plans, which determine the types of activity of the civil defense referents. They are so arranged as to provide 6 months of training for the individual

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and the unit, to be completed by the end of June of every year. The maintenance of training plans is one of the primary conditions for the successful fulfillment of annual training missions. All officials responsible for civil defense training, referents, chairmen of kra; and okres committees, basic organization chiefs, chiefs and instructors of the OMPP [probably, Obrana majetku proti požiaru, Defense of Property Against Fire] and the VPS [probably, Vnutorni a pohranicni straz, Internal and Border Guards] at the kra; and okres committee of SVAZARM, and all workers in civil defense sections should be acquainted with the content of training plans.

To ensure civil defense training according to the new programs, all kra; and okres SVAZARM committees must organize meetings for chairmen of civil defense sections, leaders of individual technical groups, and all technical instructors. The goal of these gatherings is to familiarize the officials with the new civil defense training programs and to aid in taking up the more difficult training topics in the immediate future. These gatherings should be put into effect at once so that technical instructors may become familiarized with training schedules by the beginning of the training year.

Particular attention should be paid to training in atomic defense in the chemical defense SKSP units in which training material has been expanded by 14 hours. Supplements to their training schedules have already been issued to kra; SVAZARM committees. Aside from the specialized training of the chemical defense units, all members of SKSP groups should receive 5 hours of training in atomic defense.

Technical instructors are to a certain extent responsible for the training and preparation of their units. Even though standards for individual achievements have not as yet been set up in the programs, the instructor should be conscious of the role time plays in placing individual units into areas where an explosion has occurred so they can successfully work there. The instructor should pay attention to the rapid and exact realization of individual achievements immediately, so that, insofar as possible, the best results may be attained. Individual and unit competition should aid him in this work.

#### MASS PREPARATION FOR CIVIL DEFENSE IN JAROMER OKRES

Za Vlast  
Prague, No 10, Oct 55

Svitopluk Cech

The main difficulty involved in preparation for civil defense in Jaromer Okres is the voluntary recruitment of new members, which has not been very successful in the past. A recruitment campaign was set up in cooperation with the CsCK (Ceskoslovensky Gervery Kriz, Czechoslovak Red Cross), okres and national committees, the CsPO (Ceskoslovenska protipozarni obrana, Czechoslovak Fire-Fighting Defense), and SVAZARM. Recruitment for civil defense was connected with training for qualifying for the PCO (Pripraven k Civilni Obrane, Prepared for Civil Defense) badge, with recruiting headquarters centered in the local national committee in Jaromer. Civil defense questions are discussed by a council of the national committee once a month, by a full meeting of the local national committee once every 3 months, and by a commission of the national committee once or twice every 3 months. A special political and organizational plan has been prepared for civil defense tasks and one member

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of the council of the local national committee is charged with checking on fulfillment of the plan, which is then discussed once a month when tasks are assigned to group leaders, whose work is also controlled and checked at such meetings.

Local broadcasting facilities are used for recruitment purposes, as well as agitation meetings. The best method of recruitment has been found to be the personal approach by members of civil defense who explain to potential members the tasks of civil defense. Nowhere was there a definite dislike found toward civil defense. Mass meetings were organized at which workers of SVAZARM spoke, as well as members of the Czechoslovak Red Cross, veterinarians, physicians, firemen, and instructors at SVAZARM training centers. Films were also shown. Employees of the local national committee and of the Czechoslovak State Railroads in Jaromer all joined and are now working on qualifying for the PCO badge. The recruitment campaign has brought some successes and there are now two SKSP (self-help groups) in Jaromer Okres. The training plan of civil defense groups was fulfilled not only for 1955 but also for 1956 [sic]. The plan for awarding the PCO badge was fulfilled over 200 percent.

#### CIVIL DEFENSE ACTIVITY IN THE PRE-SVAZARM CONGRESS CAMPAIGN

Za Vlast  
Prague, No 9, Sep 55

Otokar Svoboda

In recent months there has been an increased effort on the part of all nations to preserve peace, and a relaxation of the tensions which endangered world peace. This improvement of the situation was a result of the growth of the political and economic strength, as well as the defensive potential of the nations of the peace camp. In addition to their armed forces, these nations have developed the defensive preparedness of the population. These factors create a situation favorable to world peace.

This should provide an impetus to further preparation of the population for its defensive role, which includes training in civil defense. SVAZARM is preparing for its first congress, the primary aim of which will be the further development of the activity and organizations of SVAZARM.

The civil defense tasks connected with the congress include:

1. In the precongress campaign, to ensure the development of further basic SVAZARM organizations wherever civil defense activity is planned, and to secure the greatest possible participation in training for SVAZARM membership, particularly in cities, residential sections of large cities, plants, and villages.
2. To expand the number of civil defense units not only in the okres committees of SVAZARM, but also in all cities where self-help groups are to be organized. These units are to be created in basic SVAZARM organizations, including street, town, and plant organizations.
3. To expand the number of civil defense instructor cadres in plants and in towns, to improve their knowledge through courses, to provide them with more aid in their work, and to provide them with better direction.
4. To devote greater attention and effort to the creation of additional self-help groups in residential sections of cities, and to train them better, including training against weapons of mass destruction.

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5. With the cooperation of the Czechoslovak Red Cross and the Czechoslovak Union for Fire Defense (Ceskoslovensky svaz pozarni ochrany) and with the assistance of the CSM (Ceskoslovensky svaz mladeze, Czechoslovak Federation of Youth) and of the ROH (Revolucni odborove hnuti, Revolutionary Trade Union Movement), to develop the mass preparation of the population for civil defense training so as to achieve the point where every citizen, including the youth, would have a basic knowledge of civil defense and would know how to protect himself against the effects of atomic and bacteriological weapons.

6. To strive to improve civil defense training and to emphasize more its practical nature. For this reason, more attention will be devoted to thorough evaluation of training. Participants in mass civil defense training will be encouraged to qualify for the PCO (Prepared for Civil Defense) Badges, Classes I and II.

Working methods will be improved as follows:

1. Organizational activity will be so directed as to reach all levels, including the basic organizations, not only during the current year but for a longer period. At the same time, greater attention will be devoted to the planning, direction, and control of civil defense activity, and steps will be taken promptly to correct any deficiencies so that the work and its results may be improved.
2. Greater attention will be devoted to the selection of organizational and political cadres as well as instructor cadres. Experienced workers will be relied on. Instructors will be encouraged to adopt pledges of training hours and quality of training, subject to evaluation. In cooperation with ROH organizations, the fulfillment of these pledges will be regularly evaluated.
3. Agitation and propaganda activity in civil defense will be primarily directed at basic SVAZARM organizations. This activity will be particularly emphasized whenever the plant or organization has all the prerequisites for beginning civil defense training. Photographs of civil defense activity in plants, towns, villages, and basic organizations will be used in publicizing outstanding as well as deficient examples of civil defense activity.
4. Good results in civil defense training in basic organizations [of SVAZARM], self-help groups, and civil defense groups will be used to stimulate competition in other such groups. In this competition, emphasis will be placed on securing the greatest number of PCO Badge bearers.
5. The results of civil defense training will also be influenced by whether the planning, execution, and evaluation of the training can be completed in time to permit "postgraduate" training. Therefore, as many self-help groups and training groups will be organized as can be properly trained in time.

Civil defense tasks and their execution must be taken seriously, and must be approached with a sense of responsibility. To be aware of all the problems which must be solved, distortion of the true condition of the activity must not be permitted. Good results can be obtained only if every [SVAZARM] organization takes them as a matter of personal concern. Annual membership meetings must consider the assigned tasks and the basic organizations must accept and fulfill the planned civil defense tasks. The basic organizations must direct their attention to the quantitative standards (for example, to fulfill 50 percent of the 1956 tasks by the opening of the first SVAZARM Congress) as well as to the qualitative standards. The quality of the activity is best reflected in the number of PCO Badge bearers which the organization has.

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The SVAZARM has great civil defense tasks which must be effectively executed. Improved fulfillment of these tasks is being demanded. No SVAZARM worker doubts that these tasks are very important and that their completion strengthens the defensive potential of the nation as well as its building for peace. The best contribution which can be made to the first SVAZARM Congress will be the right to boast that outstanding results have been obtained in basic organizations of SVAZARM, in okreses, and in the krajs.

#### CIVIL DEFENSE IN INDUSTRIAL PLANTS

Za Vlast  
Prague, No 8, Aug 55

Karel Simon

(Simon, of the "Rudy Letov" Plant, is a member of the Presidium of the Central Committee of SVAZARM and holds the "For Sacrificing Work" (Za obetavou praci) Badge.)

The members of SVAZARM working in civil defense must become aware that all measures must be taken to ensure an understanding of civil defense by the masses of the population. The lessons learned during World War II must be utilized in training.

This discussion will be devoted to experiences in the "Rudy Letov" Plant and in Letnany Obec. As is generally the case, the population first had to be persuaded of the importance of civil defense through agitation and propaganda. Good instructors who were also good agitators were selected. Stojfa (fnu) was experienced in the fields of fire fighting and antiaircraft defense, having completed with distinction a 3-week and a 3-day course at the krajs committee of SVAZARM in 1953. Under the leadership of the party, he organized a 20-hour course in civil defense in Letnany, and in 1954 prepared 36 citizens for the PCO (Prepared for Civil Defense) Badge examinations. Twelve of these later became instructors.

Employees of the "Rudy Letov" Plant followed in civil defense training through the efforts of party organizations, SVAZARM, worker committees, CSM (Czechoslovak Federation of Youth) groups, and responsible economic personnel, and with the participation of 50 percent of the plant's workers. There were numerous difficulties. Some collectives decided to carry out civil defense training during regular working hours but did not desire to make up the lost time.

Health personnel in the plant performed very creditable work, including demonstrations of bandaging. Dr Micko and Streiberova (fnu) organized SVAZARM health courses in which 73 women received ZO [zdravotnický odznak, Health Badge?] and 22 others were prepared for examinations. Health provisions in the plant are well-organized. Each shop has its portable first-aid kit and soon health groups will be created to provide first aid on the spot. Also, results of the mass civil defense preparation program have been good. Over 1,000 employees completed their training and received the PCO Badge.

To interest all employees, the "Rudy Letov" Plant held a civil defense exhibit. It dealt with organization of antichemical warfare, health, fire fighting, and atomic defense programs.

Despite these successes, the program requires improvement to ensure effective defense of the nation.



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## AN EXAMPLE OF PREPARATION FOR CIVIL DEFENSE

Za Vlast  
Prague, No 8, Aug 55

Anton Kyralica  
"K. J. Voroshilov" Plant  
Banovce nad Bebravou

"Socialism must be not only built but also defended, as a part of the campaign for peace. In line with this idea, the "K. J. Voroshilov" Plant in Banovce nad Bebravou began the mass civil defense training of its employees. The training was undertaken by the plant's basic organization of SVAZARM, with the cooperation of the plant's management and mass organizations. The leading economic and political workers were assigned the task of discussing the training with all workers in order to ensure wide participation. Then followed several discussions on the preparation for the PCO (Prepared for Civil Defense) Badge [examinations]. Several individuals performed exceptional work in securing the greatest possible participation of youths in the program.

A commission was created, and it prepared a plan for the training program and selected instructors for the various subjects to be covered. The entire propaganda division participated in preparing posters and various excellent training aids.

The interest which workers showed in the program became evident in the examinations. It also became evident that individual civil defense service [unit?] commanders were capable of explaining the importance of civil defense to the defensive potential of the nation. Zabar and Valjenta (fnu) did an excellent job in fire-fighting training, while Jaroslav Mika gave valuable lectures on antichemical warfare defense. Jozef Pokorny handled the political tasks while Milosav Patocek handled the technical aspects. The lectures were held between 1 May and 5 June 1955. Training with gas masks was carried out under supervision of reserve officers and noncommissioned officers who are employed in the plant. The training program opened with a political introduction and was concluded with a discussion of the duties of the population in case of civil defense emergency.

The plan had set the examinations for 20 June 1955. The test room was equipped with all equipment required for the examination. The workers were tested according to their membership in individual groups. The OUSPZ [not further identified] was the first group tested. The examination commission was composed of the lecturers on individual topics, and officials of the okres national committee, the KSS (Communist Party of Slovakia) basic organization, the ROH (Revolutionary Trade Union Movement), the SVAZARM, and the plant.

The examination exposed some deficiencies, including the failure of a few workers to appear for the examinations, gaps in the theoretical knowledge of some individuals, and, in one case, the inability to put on a gas mask. The tests ended on 23 June, with 98 percent of the workers completing the test successfully. At the next all-plant meeting, the PCO Badges will be awarded.

All officials can be satisfied with the results. The leaders of the OUSPZ no 13, in particular, should be pleased with the results, for the members of this group are now going to other plants to carry on work where the importance of civil defense has not yet been comprehended.

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## PARTICIPATION IN CIVIL DEFENSE - PATRIOTIC DUTY OF ALL

Za Vlast  
Prague, No 7, Jul 55

Bohuslav Cepelak

To ensure the success of an army, it is essential that the civilian population of the nation be prepared in peacetime to effectively resist the enemy's efforts to injure the homeland. The importance of civil defense was proved in World War II in the defense of the USSR. Tens of thousands of citizens owe their lives to the assistance provided by civil defense units, while great material losses were saved from destruction by fire through the efforts of these civil defense units. It is the responsibility of all Czechoslovak citizens to support the civil defense preparation being carried on according to the pattern set by Dosaaf.

One sunny afternoon an air-raid signal (poplachovy signal) was sounded in the Fucik Section of Gottwaldov. In less than 3 minutes the first members of the SKSP (self-help group) headed for the assembly area. All members of the SKSP, including police, fire-fighting, antichemical-warfare, technical, and shelter personnel arrived with their prescribed arms and equipment in less than 17 minutes. All turned to their jobs and proved their preparedness, under the leadership of Cervený (fnu), commander of the SKSP.

When Cervený first began to organize the SKSP in the locality, he experienced various difficulties, including the inadequacy of literature on civil defense, so attention was centered on health preparation. Such success was achieved that 90 percent of the section's population is trained in health. Through Cervený's efforts, interest was aroused in the civil defense program. In 1954 the [Gottwaldov] Kra. Committee [of SVAZARM] set up a training program for commanders and members of individual groups (druzstva). Cervený organized a staff of workers composed of group leaders, including the commander, assistant commander, and political worker. Thus the foundation for systematic work was built. His SKSP conducts monthly meetings on topics dealing with the specialty of each division. Films and other aids are used whenever possible. The okres has provided whatever help it could, but since it lacked instructors, Cervený trained his own instructors from among the members, and he now has much valuable assistance from these.

Civil defense organizers frequently complain of the lack of interest in civil defense among women. In the Fucik Section of Gottwaldov the situation is far different, for the entire SKSP is composed of women, except for the commander. These include middle-aged and older women. All except the very newest members have received the PCO (Prepared for Civil Defense) Badge.

The 18 February [1955] resolution of the Central Committee of SVAZARM states, among other things, that by the end of the year all SVAZARM members are to be trained in civil defense. In addition, tens of thousands of non-SVAZARM members are to be trained in civil defense and prepare for PCO Badge examinations. Each of the women in Cervený's SKSP has already begun to carry out this task, for all have begun agitation activity to secure more members.

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## SVAZARM ORGANIZES MASS CIVIL DEFENSE PREPARATION

Za Vlast  
Prague, No 3, Mar 55

Fr. Pavek

The activities of SVAZARM are so numerous that no single individual can master them all. SVAZARM committees have therefore created executive collectives to aid in properly preparing the various activities of the committees. A number of SVAZARM committees have already found this system valuable in preparing civil defense tasks. The civil defense activity of SVAZARM is made even more complex by the fact that its activity must be coordinated with activity of the Czechoslovak Red Cross and the Czechoslovak Union of Fire Defense. In those cases where such cooperation is present, civil defense and particularly the population's self-help is strengthened.

An example of the good work carried out in many okreses and towns is the case of Jaromersko, where a large portion of the workers and okres, city, and village officials became interested in the tasks of civil defense. Virtually every okres national committee, local national committee, and okres committee of SVAZARM meeting in this community includes the consideration of civil defense. The okres committee of the KSC (Communist Party of Czechoslovakia) also regularly considers the level of civil defense preparation. The resolutions of these organizations are considered by the civil defense section of the okres committee of SVAZARM, which then makes recommendations to the presidium of the okres committee of SVAZARM.

Primary attention has been devoted to the civil defense plan as a whole. No component of the plan is emphasized at the expense of some other component, nor is any organization participating in the training given priority over another. Recruitment of health, self-help, and fire-watching personnel is centralized in the national committee. Recruitment is preceded by lectures, films, broadcasts, and exhibits. Various public organizations have an active part in this propaganda program. Some schools have taken the initiative and have prepared plans for their own use in civil defense activity. Such cooperation has permitted the 1954 mass political activity plan for civil defense to be carried out and the mass civil defense training plan to be surpassed, both from the standpoint of participation and in the qualification for the PCO (Prepared for Civil Defense) Badges. The plan for the first quarter of 1955 was prepared and approved on the basis of experiences gained in 1954. The 1955 program calls for even greater efforts to be exerted in all okreses of the okres. It was decided by the plenum of the okres committee of SVAZARM that every member of SVAZARM will undergo mass civil defense training by the end of 1955. The okres committee of SVAZARM also decided to expand the activity of organizational, propagation, and trade union workers and to devote systematic attention to these workers; to improve [the okres committees'] assistance to plants, offices, JZDs (unified agricultural cooperatives), and other agencies in the civil defense preparations; and to bring the ZO (Zakladni organizace, basic organization) of SVAZARM into mass civil defense preparation.

The large corps of instructors in mass preparation has proved to be of great assistance. These instructors are charged with the tasks of organizing, leading, and partly with the training of civil defense groups of SVAZARM. They are assisted in their work by specialists in health, fire fighting, technology, and antichemical warfare, who are sent by the okres committee of SVAZARM. The instructional staff is continually being improved by the addition of qualified personnel such as senior students from chemical schools and by other professional personnel. Reserve officers are making their time available to improve the training. To further improve the training program,

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the okres committee of SVAZARM is considering the creation of street organizations of SVAZARM which will have not only civil defense functions but also other defense functions.

#### TECHNICAL TRAINING OF SELF-HELP GROUPS

Za Vlast  
Prague, No 2, Feb 55

Otokar Svoboda

The formation of civil defense groups in residential areas and enterprises is carried out by SVAZARM, the Czechoslovak Red Cross, and the Czechoslovak Union for Fire Defense.

SVAZARM organizations build and train the SKSP (Skupiny svepomoci, self-help groups). The technical training, both theoretical and practical, has shown some successes; however many deficiencies remain. One such deficiency is that prepared programs for 1954 for squad training of the SKSP were excellent but did not allow enough time for practical exercises. For that reason the Central Committee of SVAZARM prepared a new 1955 technical training program for individual squads of the SKSP and for the training of SKSP leaders and their ZVP (Zastupce velitele pro veci politicke, deputy leader for political affairs). Through this program it is desired that all members of SKSP squads and their leaders obtain during the one year at least the required minimum technical knowledge of civil defense.

Individual programs are being prepared for each SKSP technical squad. The program contains directives for all members of the squad, including squad leaders, and special directives for squad leaders alone. The program is so arranged that at first training is carried out individually by each member of a squad, then squad training which includes all members and the squad leader, and finally training of an SKSP with all its squads in cooperation with other organs assigned civil defense activities in the center of a [bomb] strike.

It is necessary now, in January and February 1955, to begin the technical training of squad members of the SKSP, regardless of the fact that, in some cases, they have not completed the mass preparation of the population for civil defense [training]. The training must be so scheduled that individual and squad training is completed by 30 June 1955. Therefore, training programs for the SKSP are so prepared that each group knows what to train for in a given month. According to the plans, civil defense training should consume about 5 to 6 hours monthly. This method will enable the kraj and okres committees of SVAZARM to follow closely the fulfillment of training in a given time period and correct any deficiencies. The plan therefore must be adhered to in SKSP training, not only in plants but also in residential areas. Integrated SKSP training is scheduled for September and October, as well as examinations. The examinations will be used to determine the ability of individual members of the squad to give necessary aid and to take necessary action in the event of a hit on an area, as individuals and as members of a unit. The examinations will also show the ability of group and squad leaders to handle their units in an affected area.

The PCO (Prepared for Civil Defense) Badge, Second Degree, will be awarded to those members of self-help groups who show in the examination that they have not only sufficient technical knowledge as members of an SKSP squad but also a general knowledge of mass preparation for civil defense.

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These members of SKSP who began their technical training directly will have to undergo general training on civil defense in the second half of 1955. In doing this it is possible to drop training for qualification in the field of antichemical defense and health of those members of antichemical and health squads, and to drop training in firefighting of members of the fire-fighting squads. It is also possible to shorten the training of squads of the SKSP [in their technical training]. Thus, general training on mass preparations can be considerably shortened for those who have completed squad training.

#### THE STREET ORGANIZATION OF SVAZARM AND CIVIL DEFENSE

Za Vlast  
Prague, No 1, Jan 55

Frantisek Pavek

Street (ulicni) organizations of SVAZARM were being established throughout Czechoslovakia in 1954, consisting of housewives and workers who did not belong to SVAZARM organizations in their place of employment. Several of the street organizations began working on plans to establish civil defense groups in the street organizations. For example, the street organization in Prague-Dejvice, established in 1954 for persons interested in rifle marksmanship, started making plans in cooperation with the Prague 6 (Dejvice) Obvod SVAZARM organization on methods of founding a civil defense circle (krouzek) and publicizing the plans so that as many people as possible could be obtained for work in mass civil defense preparations. The preparations of this particular circle can serve as an example for the organization of mass preparations by civil defense circles of SVAZARM units, and possibly as an example of how to expand the net of basic street organizations of SVAZARM in other towns and developments.

The committee of the street organization first prepared a plan for its civil defense activities up to January 1955. Because of a lack of previous experience, a representative of the committee obtained the cooperation of the street committee of the KSC (Communist Party of Czechoslovakia), and together they selected those houses in which agitation for mass preparation for civil defense would begin, so that by January 1955 the training of at least one civil defense circle could begin. Thus the basic plan for civil defense preparations was prepared in Prague-Dejvice. The following activities followed a set pattern. Representatives (duvernik) of selected houses were called to a meeting on a given date, where they were welcomed, civil defense was explained to them, and finally they were signed up for the civil defense circles.

After the above planning, the street committee then discussed the organization of the first civil defense circle, including the selection of a chairman, an agitator, and those who would instruct and give tests on individual assignments; the location of a classroom and a site where practical tests could be given; the procurement of training aids; and the Schedule of Assignments (Program masove pripravy) for members of the civil defense circle. The greatest difficulty encountered was in the quality of training. The difficulty was not apparent in the first and second phases of the PCO (Prepared for Civil Defense) training, that is, the organizational and chemical warfare phases, because, although the committee had an adequate number of people with the necessary background in civil defense organization and in chemical warfare, there were no qualified instructors for the third and fourth phases, which are medical training and defense against fire. Therefore, the committee authorized the chairman of the civil defense circle to request necessary instructors from

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the Obvod Committee of SVAZARM. The provisional plan was sent to the Obvod Committee for corrections and approval. Propaganda leaflets and other literature for individual houses were received, as well as training aids and wall posters which had thus far been published by the Central Committee of SVAZARM for civil defense training. At the next meeting of the street committee the provisional plan and the schedule of assignments was presented by the chairman of the civil defense circle for final approval. Thus the first step in mass preparations for civil defense was made.

Other steps in the activity of this civil defense circle of SVAZARM include the intensification of training; procurement of more instructors, organizational workers, and recruiters; an increase in the number of civil defense circles and in the training of the population in civil defense activities in other houses; and preparing as many people as possible for qualifying for the PCO Badge.

The mass preparation of the population for civil defense is the first step in the preparation for self-help in civil defense. This type of preparation is adequate to take care of minor accidents, fires, and other calamities in peacetime, and, in wartime, to enable each individual to avoid injuries and accidents, give first aid, and help fight fires. This is individual training and defense, but a well-functioning system of civil defense in houses and plants also requires a united, well-organized self-help group (skupina svezpomoci) in all types of civil defense units. One of the civil defense units is the self-help group which is established and trained by SVAZARM organizations. Mass training, alone, however, is not adequate training for members of the self-help groups and they therefore receive more advanced training in centers organized by the Obvod Committee of SVAZARM according to the type of training needed by individual groups.

This brings us to the third stage of activity of the street organization of SVAZARM in civil defense.

The successes of the civil defense street organizations of Dosaaf can serve as an example. The basic street organization of Dosaaf in a large six-story house at Rubinstein Street, No 3, in Leningrad, first established a civil defense circle. A classroom was then made available in the basement and equipped with posters and a small library with appropriate books. The training of members took place twice a week until all members fulfilled their requirements and obtained the PCO badge. Then a self-help group was organized and more advanced training was made available to individual squads. After completion of this training, exercises were held once a month for the entire self-help group and the members participated in okres civil defense contests.

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